Import of Newsprint

2381. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be plased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the newspaper traders to import newsprint indented with the State Trading Corporation, (STC) in 1991-92 waiving the condition of purchase of indigenous newsprint;

(b) what are the norms that have been formulated by Government for the newspaper to purchase newsprint and whether the Registrar of newspapers for India (RNI) has entitlement for the issue of some specifying certificate;

(c) what are the details of quota allocated for each newspaper (Newspaper-wise) by Government;

(d) whether Government have issued any public notice to waive conditions for those left with unserviced quantity; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a), (d) and (e) Those newspapers whose indents for imported newsprint in 1991-92 could not be serviced by the State Trading Corporation of India have been allowed to import the "unserviced" quantities of newsprint relating to 1991-92 without the 2:1 condition prescribed in the Public Notice No. 4-ITC(PN)/92-97 dated 31 March, 1992 issued by the Ministry of Commerce governing the policy for the import of newsprint. The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) shall issue Entitlement Certificates to such newspapers indicating the specific "unserviced" quantities of newsprint allowed for import. No entitlement certificate has so far been issued in this regard by the RNI.

(b) As from 1 April 1992, the import of newsprint is governed by the Public Notice No. 4-ITC(PN)/92-9 dated 31 March, 1992 issued by the Ministry of Commerce. According to this Public Notice, newspapers consuming more than 200 MTs of newsprint per annum are entitled to import standard newsprint subject to the condition that they can import MT of newsprint for every 2 MTs o indigenously produced newsprint purchased by them. As long as this condition is fulfilled, there is no limitation on the quantity of newsprint that they may import. So far as newspapers consuming less than 200 MTs of newsprint per annum are concerned, the above mentioned condition does no apply, but the Registrar of Newspapers for India will determine the maximum quantity of newsprint that they may import under an annual import entitlement certificate. The guidelines for issuing such entitlement certificates are contained in the Public Notice No. I-PR-NF/92 date 15th May, 1992 issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) The total number of newspapers to whom the Registrar Newspapers for India had allocate newsprint during 1991-92 is 2463. The

details of the quantity of newsprint allocated are given below.

(IC3)

Category	No. of papers	Glazed	Standard	Total imported	Indigenous	Grand Total
Big	279	18444.68	86641.76	105086.44	233896.23	338982.67
Medium . . .	334	5489.33	15995.12	21484.45	33886.40	55370.85
Small	1950	1678.15	88208.34	89886.49	9915.74	99802.23
	2463	25612.16	190845.22	216457.38	277698.37	494155.75

Loss in export of horticulture

2382. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the country is losing export worth Rs. 3000 crores annually in horticulture produce and India is the second largest producer of fresh vegetable in the world, but its role and presence in the international market is almost negligible;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to develop knowledge about the global market and meets its quality requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): It is true that India is the second largest producer of fresh fruits and vegetables in the world It is also true that a present India's share in the world trade in fresh fruits and vegetable is less than 1 per cent which is negligible.

(b) The low performance in export of horticulture produce is attributable to a variety of reasons including lack of infrastructural facilities which result in heavy post-harvest losses, low productivity and high prices of raw materials, high air freight rates, high cost of inputs etc. Government has recently taken a series of steps to step up India's horticulture exports.

(c) With a view to acquire and disseminate knowledge about global market including quality requirements, Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) organises buyer-seller meets, participates in international trade fair, extends assistance for quality upgradation and keeps exporters advised of quality standard required under ISO 9000 for exports to Europe etc.

White paper on Dunkel Proposals

2383. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a white paper on GATT, including the Dunkel proposals, was